

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An extendable rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle, comprising:
 - a support arm for attachment to a vehicle body by a mirror mount comprising first and second legs separated by a substantial void which extends along the support arm forming separated horizontal parallel segments;
 - a mirror assembly mounted on said support arm, said mirror assembly including a bracket and a surrounding housing affixed thereto;
 - a mirror subassembly affixed to a first side of the bracket and lying within said housing; and
 - clamp means on said bracket for slidably affixing said bracket to said support arm, comprising:
 - a first jaw being stationary with respect to said bracket and engaging a first guide rail located along one edge of said support arm; and
 - a second, movable jaw including pivot means, said second jaw forceably engaging a second guide rail located along a second edge of said support arm structure.
2. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein said clamping plane is substantially vertical.
3. The mirror assembly of claim 1 further including first bearing means interposed between said first jaw and said first guide rail and second bearing means interposed between said second jaw and said second guide rail.

1 4. The mirror assembly of claim 3 wherein said first jaw further includes a guide rail
2 and faces opposite said first support arm guide rail, both guide rails further including surfaces
3 which have a V-shaped cross-section.

4 5. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein said second jaw includes a guide rail and
5 faces opposite said second support arm guide rail, both guide rails further including surfaces
6 which have a V-shaped cross-section.

7 6. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein said second jaw includes force-applying
8 spring means urging said second jaw in a direction of clamping.

9 7. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein said mirror sub-assembly includes a mirror
10 glass, a support plate, and motor-driven positioning means.

11 8. The mirror assembly of claim 7 wherein the second jaw is movable to a point of
12 release where the bracket is laterally releasable from the support arm.

13 9. The mirror assembly of claim 3 wherein the first and second bearing means
14 are elongate, rod-shaped members.

15 10. The mirror assembly of claim 3 wherein said bearing means are composed of solid
16 PFTE.

17 11. The mirror assembly of claim 3 wherein said bearing means are composed of a
18 substantially ablatable material such that initial operation of said slide mechanism causes said
19 bearing means to deposit friction-reducing material upon the surfaces of the guide rails.

20 12. The mirror assembly of claim 3 wherein said movable clamp jaw includes a lever
21 arm having an end which engages spring means, the end of said lever arm extending to an
22 opposite side of said bracket.

1 13. The mirror assembly of claim 12 wherein said bracket includes a fulcrum about
2 which the lever arm pivots.

3 14. The mirror assembly of claim 13 wherein said spring is a coil-type compression
4 spring.

5 15. The mirror assembly of claim 14 wherein said fulcrum is located along said bracket
6 which holds the spring and the second jaw in their operative positions solely by the co-mutual
7 compression of engaged parts.

8 16. The mirror assembly of claim 14 wherein said spring operates between the end of
9 the lever arm and an abutment both being located on the opposite side of said bracket.

10 17. The mirror assembly of claim 7 wherein the aggregate center of mass of all
11 components is substantially in the clamping plane.

12 18. An extendable mirror assembly for a vehicle, comprising: ✓
13 a support arm having two horizontally extending legs at one end and a mounting
14 bracket affixed thereto at an opposite end in slidable engagement therewith; and
15 clamp means on said bracket including two jaws each engaging top and bottom
16 edges of the support arm respectively, said clamp means including at least one movable jaw which
17 extends from a lever arm and pivots on a fulcrum extending from said bracket and forceably
18 engages a bearing surface along one of said edges of the support arm.

19 19. The mirror assembly of claim 17 further described in that said first jaw is adjacent
20 the top of the housing and said second jaw is adjacent the bottom of the housing.

21 20. The mirror assembly of claim 9 wherein the bearing rods extend the length of the
22 guide rails on the bracket.

1 21. The mirror assembly of claim 1 further including a pair of two-part telescoping
2 covers fully encasing each of said support arm legs, one part of each cover being affixed to each
3 of said legs and a second part of each cover being affixed to said mirror housing.

4 22. The mirror assembly of claim 21 wherein said telescoping covers are non-load-
5 bearing.

6 23. The mirror assembly of claim 18 wherein said bracket is slidably affixed to said
7 support arm on only one side thereof such that when said movable jaw is moved to a point of
8 release, the jaws of said clamp means and said bracket are laterally releasable from the edges of
9 said support arm.

10 24. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein said first and second jaws define a
11 clamping plane between them which lies along the bracket.